

June 29, 2006

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U.S. Congresswoman Allyson Y. Schwartz, 13th District of Pennsylvania

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Dear Friend,

Heavy rain has resulted in widespread flooding and additional problems up and down the East Coast, including here in Philadelphia.

Below are tips and information concerning flooding and rain damage that you may find helpful.

For more information on my work in Congress on your behalf please visit my [website](#).

To sign up today to keep receiving my email – even during the upcoming Congressional Blackout Period – please be sure to click yes on the sign-up question on the left side of this email.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz

Advice for during a flood

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for

<div data-bbox="324 195 513 231">1999979938.825</div> <div data-bbox="324 237 513 289">1</div>	<p>instructions to move.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain. <p>If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor. • Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. <p>If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you. • Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away. <p>Driving Flood Facts</p> <p>The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling. • A foot of water will float many vehicles. • Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups. <p>(Tips courtesy of the Federal Emergency</p>
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Management Agency,
http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/fl_during.shtm)

Information for Philadelphia residents

Physical Disaster Survey Form

Please click to download and fill out the attached [**Physical Disaster Survey Form**](#) if you experienced flood damages to your home. The form is used by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to collect information to qualify for a disaster declaration. You are encouraged to estimate the cost of damages. This is NOT an application for financial relief.

Your options to return the form are:

Mail:

Office of Emergency Management
240 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-2991

Or **E-mail** to Managing.Director@phila.gov

Or **Fax** to Office of Emergency Management at 215-686-1117

Additional Information

Residents who have flood debris to set out for collection should follow these tips:

- Secure debris in such a way as to prevent refuse from being carried away by the elements. Place debris in leak proof bags or containers with tight- fitting lids.
- Securely tie wood scraps (no longer than four feet, no heavier than 40 pounds)
- Cardboard boxes and other loose items should be broken down and tied in bundles no more than four feet long.
- Large bulk items or an excessive number of trash bags should be reported to the Streets

Dept. Customer Affairs 215-686-5560 to advise them of the set out location.

- In excess of six containers (32-gallon maximum) or 12 (26 to 32 gallons) leak-proof bags.
- No single container may weight more than 40 pounds.
- Residents may check the Streets Department website (<http://www.phila.gov/streets/>) for additional information regarding the proper set out of trash or contact the Streets Department's Customer Affairs Office at 215-686-5560.
- **Closed until further notice:** Cresheim Valley Drive between Germantown Avenue and Lincoln Drive for repair work to the eroded shoulder area of the roadway.
- **Closed from 10 am to 2pm Tues, Wed. and Thurs.** Bells Mill Road from Germantown Avenue to Lykens Lane.

Residents who miss their trash collection day can take household trash and bulk items to one of the City's Sanitation Convenience Centers, all open Monday-Saturday, 8 am-6 pm:

- 51st & Grays (West & Southwest Philadelphia)
- 63rd & Passyunk (serving South and North Philadelphia)
- Domino & Umbria (Northwest Philadelphia)
- Delaware Ave, north of Castor (Lower Northeast Philadelphia)

(Information courtesy of the City of Philadelphia, <http://www.phila.gov/floodadvice.html>)

Flood clean up tips

Flood water contains mostly dirt and debris. However, it may contain a very small amount of chemicals or possibly sewage that poses a health risk. In addition, a flood may cause electrical hazards and compromise the safety of food and medicines.

Cleaning your home or business

- Remove all standing water by pumping, mopping, and opening clogged drains.
- Avoid electrical shocks! Do not stand in pools of water unless you know the electricity is turned off.
- After turning off the electricity, all wet light fixtures should be cleaned and dried thoroughly before turning the electricity back on.
- Remove and dispose of all wet ceiling tiles, paper products, baseboards, and gypsum board (also known as dry wall) to a level approximately four feet above the flood water line. Remove wet insulation and materials that absorb water.
- Carpets can be saved by wet vacuuming, shampooing, and taking steps to assure that the carpet is totally dry.
- Wood and metal studs should be wiped with a bleach solution twice and allowed to air dry.
- Cabinets and household equipment should first be cleaned with soap and water. Then make a disinfecting solution of 1/4 cup of bleach in one gallon of clean water and wipe down all areas touched by the floodwater. Disinfect all contaminated floors and other surfaces and allow to dry.
- If possible, open windows and doors during cleaning and for at least 24 hours after the cleaning to allow surfaces to thoroughly dry and prevent mold. Use fans or dehumidifiers to shorten drying times.
- Clothing and bedding exposed to flood water should be soaked in clean water to remove any mud, then wash in hot water or, if hot water is not available, add a disinfectant such as bleach to the rinse water. Mattresses or other large items soaked with floodwater will probably have to be discarded. However, if they are made of foam rubber, it may be possible to wash, disinfect and air-dry these items.

Protecting your health

- Do not let children play with wet toys or other items until these have been cleaned and disinfected. Wipe these items with a diluted bleach solution or by washing the toys in a dishwasher using hot water.
- Those performing the cleanup should practice good personal hygiene by washing their

	<p>hands after completing cleanup and before touching food or beverages, or smoking. Wear waterproof gloves and protective clothing. Protective gear should be discarded or washed after cleanup is completed each day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep children from playing on lawns and fields until the ground surface has dried.• Contact your physician or health care provider if you or a family member develops any of the following symptoms within five days: fever greater than 100 degrees, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or severe stomach cramps.• If you receive a puncture wound or other injury during the flood or while you perform flood cleanup, talk with your health care provider about the need for treatment and/or a tetanus shot. <p>Medicine, Food, and Kitchen Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discard all medicines and foods in contact with floodwater. Throw out all perishable foods that have been out of refrigeration for more than six hours. Do not refreeze frozen foods that have been thawed.• All cooking and eating utensils, food preparation surfaces, counters and work surfaces that were touched or splashed by flood water should be washed with soap and water and wiped with a diluted bleach solution. <p>For additional safe clean up information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Environmental Engineering Section, Monday-Friday (8 am-4:30 pm) at 215- 685-7342. <p>(Tips courtesy of the City of Philadelphia, http://www.phila.gov/floodadvice.html)</p>	
Contact Information		
Washington Office 423 Cannon Office Building Washington, DC 20515 phone: 202/225-6111 fax: 202/226-0611	Montgomery County Office 706 West Avenue Jenkintown, PA 19046 phone: 215/517-6572 fax: 215/517-6575	Philadelphia Office 7219 Frankford Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19135 phone: 215/335-3355 fax: 215/333-4508

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